

Message Text

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PAGE 01 COLOMB 02024 120833Z
ACTION NEA-10

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NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /029 W
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FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7467
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINR, PDIP, CE, EG

SUBJ: APPOINTMENT OF NEW SRI LANKAN AMBASSADOR AND FIRST
SECRETARY TO EGYPT

1. WITH THE TRANSFER OF CURRENT SRI LANKAN AMBASSADOR TO
EGYPT H. O. WIJEGONAWARDENA TO BELGRADE TO FILL THE VACANCY
THERE, GSL HAS APPOINTED VETERAN MOSLEM POLITICIAN IBRAHIM
ABDUL CADER AS THE NEW AMBASSADOR IN CAIRO. CADER HAS BEEN
A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FROM THE RULING SRI LANKA FREEDOM PARTY
(SLFP) SINCE 1960 (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF A HIATUS FROM 1965-
69) AND DEPUTY SPEAKER AND CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEES SINCE 1970.

2. AGREED 60 AND WITH A MILD HEART CONDITION, CADER HAS NO
INTEREST IN CONTESTING THE ELECTION AND KEEPING UP THE HECTIC
PACE REQUIRED OF A SITTING M.P. HE ALSO PROBABLY SUSPECTS
THAT THERE IS A GOOD CHANCE THAT HE WOULD LOSE IN AN ELECTION
YEAR THAT IS SHAPING UP TO BE AN ANTI-GOVERNMENT ONE. IF THE
SLFP IS DEFEATED AT ELECTIONS JULY 21, CADER MAY HAVE A VERY
SHORT TOUR OF DUTY IN CAIRO, WHICH IS VIEWED HERE AS AN
IDEAL POST FOR A BUSINESSMAN (I.E., GEMS). WE UNDERSTAND
EGYPTIAN EMBASSY OFFICERS HERE HAD ADVISED CAIRO TO STALL
AGREEMENT UNTIL AFTER THE ELECTIONS BUT THEY WERE APPARENTLY
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OVERRULED; CADER WILL BE LEAVING FOR CAIRO IN EARLY JULY.

3. CADER IS A MEMBER OF THE ISLAMIC SOCIALIST FRONT, A MOSLEM
LBBY WITHIN THE SLFP, AND HAS TRAVELLED WIDELY, INCLUDING
TRIPS TO THE U.S., EUROPE, MECCA, AND MOST RECENTLY TO IRAQ
WHERE HE WAS A GUEST OF THE BAATH SOCIALIST PARTY. HE HAS TWO
DAUGHTERS IN LONDON, WHOM HE HOPES TO BE ABLE TO VISIT MORE

FREQUENTLY IN HIS NEW ASSIGNMENT, ONE REASON WHY HE SOUGHT THE JOB. HE HAS AT LEAST ONE OTHER DAUGHTER AT HOME. BY PROFESSION, HE IS A LAWYER, BUT IS INVOLVED IN A TRAVEL AGENCY AS WELL. HIS WIFE HAS OWNED AND OPERATED A PRODUCE STALL IN A LOCAL CENTRAL MARKET.

4. HE AND HIS WIFE ARE A PLEASANT AND UNASSUMING COUPLE WHO HAVE BEEN FRIENDS OF AMERICAN EMBASSY PERSONNEL HERE. HE IS A PRACTICING MOSLEM ALTHOUGH NOT ABOVE TAKING A DRINK (OFTEN BRANDY AND GINGER ALE).

5. THE RECENTLY-APPOINTED FIRST SECRETAR IN CAIRO, ALFRED K. (ALFIE) DAVID, IS A CAREER DIPLOMAT MUCH INVOLVED IN RECENT YEARS WITH NON-ALIGNED AFFAIRS. BORN IN 1940, HE JOINED THE FOREIGN SERVICE. 1965 AND HAS SERVED IN PARIS AND KUALA LUMPUR. HE SPEAKS FRENCH. HE AND HIS WIFE RANJI (MARRIED IN 1968) HAVE TWO DAUGHTERS.

6. THE PRESENT AMBASSADOR TO CAIRO, H.O. WIJEGOONEWARDANA, MOVES TO BELGRADE.
PERKINS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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